

Title: Forward in Faith, Part 1

Text: 1 Samuel 14:1-23

Big Idea: God accomplishes His greatest work through people who are willing to move forward in faith rather than sit idle in fear.

1. The Pomegranate Dilemma: Sit in Fear or Step Out in Faith

- Jonathan sees the threat and chooses action while Saul sits under the pomegranate tree.
- Faith does not ignore danger; it trusts that God is greater than the danger.
- Key question: Am I waiting in fear or moving forward in obedience?

1. The Faith Declaration: Nothing Can Hinder the Lord

- Jonathan believes God can save “whether by many or by few.”
- God is not limited by numbers, weapons, odds, or human weakness.
- Application: Faithfulness is the key; God supplies the miracle.

1. The Encouraging Companion: “I Am With You Heart and Soul”

- Jonathan’s armor-bearer strengthens him with loyal encouragement.
- Faithful leaders need encouragement, not only criticism or silence.
- Application: If you are not called to be Jonathan, find a Jonathan and get behind them.

1. The Advance Mentality: Climb When God Says Go

- Jonathan seeks God’s confirmation, then climbs toward the battle.

- The plan may look impossible, but God’s promises make obedience reasonable.
- Key truth: With God, we advance instead of retreat.

1. The Supernatural Victory: God Does What Only God Can Do

- Jonathan does what he can; God sends panic and confusion among the Philistines.
- The pressure of the miracle is not on us.
- Application: We plant seeds, obey boldly, and trust God for the increase.

1. The Ripple Effect of One Person’s Faith

- Jonathan unleashed the faithful.
- He ignited the apathetic.
- He reclaimed the sellouts.
- He gave hope to the fearful.

Closing Challenge: Where are you today—sitting and waiting, or climbing and trusting? God can use even mustard-seed faith when His people are willing to move forward.